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Operational activities for development

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 19th meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Operational activities for development" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a general debate on the item in conjunction with item 43, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children", at its 18th, 19th and 24th meetings, on 28 October and 4 November 2002. The Committee took action on the item at its 40th and 44th meetings, on 4 and 11 December. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.18, 19, 24, 40 and 44). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 30 September to 3 October (see A/C.2/57/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant chapter of the report of the Economic and Social Council;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation (A/57/155);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on pledging mechanisms to fund operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/57/332);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/57/125);

[1] See A/57/3 (Part II); for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1).

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(e) Letter dated 24 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/57/3);

(f) Letter dated 23 September 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 19 September 2002 (A/57/444).

4. At the 18th meeting, on 28 October, introductory statements were made by the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the Deputy Director of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, and the Chief of the Development Cooperation Policy Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see A/C.2/57/SR.18).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.25 and A/C.2/57/L.88

5. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/57/L.25), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/201 of 21 December 2001 and all other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions,

"*Recalling also* paragraph 31 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and resolution 45/215 of 21 December 1990 on future administrative arrangements for the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

"*Reaffirming* that operational activities are one of the major pillars of the United Nations and that the impact of operational activities for development of the United Nations system must be enhanced by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development and the relevant parts of Assembly resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997,

"*Reaffirming also* that core resources, as untied resources, are the bedrock of the operational activities of the United Nations system,

"*Recalling* the role of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in supporting national efforts for achieving internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome documents of major United Nations conferences,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Stresses* the need to ensure overall support for the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system through the promotion of intergovernmental events in the context of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, which serve as high-level forums within the United Nations for the discussion of development cooperation issues as well as for the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system and as vehicles to facilitate the mobilization of resources, in particular, core resources for those operational activities;

"3. *Stresses also* that such events, in order to pursue the commitment of major actors to resource mobilization, should:

"(a) Have high political and public visibility and involve Governments, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders;

"(b) Be organized in accordance with the developmental priorities established in the Millennium Declaration and at major United Nations conferences and summits;

"(c) Aim at multi-year funding;

"(d) Address the effectiveness of operational activities for development, reflecting the practice of results-based reporting;

"(e) Take account and address the needs of all the organizations of the United Nations system;

"4. *Recommends* that such events include, inter alia, one high-level event devoted fully to the substantive consideration of funding for United Nations system development cooperation, which should be organized once a year, on a regular basis, in conjunction with the following occasions:

"(a) The biennial high-level dialogue of the General Assembly on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

"(b) The high-level segment of the annual substantive session of the Economic and Social Council;

"5. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Boards and secretariats of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund in establishing multi-year funding frameworks that integrate programme objectives, resources, budgets and outcomes with the objective of increasing core resources and enhancing their predictability, and invites them to continue to develop and refine the multi-year funding frameworks as a strategic resource management tool;

"6. *Recalls* that an annual target of 1.1 billion United States dollars has been agreed upon for the regular resources of the United Nations Development Programme and stresses, in this context, the need to establish similar annual targets for the regular resources of the other funds and programmes of the United Nations as well;

"7. *Calls* for the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund to hold the pledging sessions of the respective multi-year funding framework processes in a single time frame, in the context of the joint meetings of their Executive

Boards, and encourages other funds and programmes of the United Nations system to adopt the multi-year funding framework concept as a mechanism to ensure multi-year funding of their respective activities;

"8. *Decides*, based on the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 56/201, to further review, at its fifty-ninth session, in the context of the triennial policy review of operational activities for development, the status of the current annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities."

6. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium), introduced a draft decision entitled "Pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/57/L.88), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.25.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/57/L.88 (see para. 20, draft decision I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/56/L.88, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.25 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.26 and A/C.2/57/L.53

9. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (A/C.2/57/L.26), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Stressing* that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context, reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

"*Taking note* of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held in New York on 19 September 2002, in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation was re-emphasized,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation;

"2. *Notes with satisfaction* that developing countries have succeeded in setting elaborate action plans for South-South cooperation, and urges developing countries and their partners to intensify South-South and triangular initiatives contributing to the achievement of the millennium development goals;

"3. *Encourages* developing countries to strengthen their national coordination mechanisms in order to improve the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this connection also encourages other bilateral and multilateral development partners to do the same, as appropriate;

"4. *Reiterates* the urgent need to help strengthen institutions and centres of excellence in the South, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to making more effective use of such entities towards improved South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, capacity-building, information exchange, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern;

"5. *Recommends* that the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should in the future review all aspects of South-South cooperation;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, and in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations and agencies, to carry out a comprehensive study with a view to examining the organization of the programme and the means of implementation of the proposed international decade for South-South cooperation and the United Nations Day on South-South cooperation, and to submit the findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

"7. *Reiterates* the emphasis in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development on the need for multilateral and bilateral financial and development institutions to intensify efforts, inter alia, to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation as delivery tools of assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"8. *Recalls* decision 2002/18 of 27 September 2002, taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, in which the Board decided to allocate a fixed annual amount of $3.5 million to the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and calls upon all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes, and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation;

"9. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South activities, and in this context invites donor countries, as well as developing countries in a position to do so, to contribute generously in support of such cooperation through, inter alia, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, and decides to include the latter in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and other relevant organizations and agencies, to include in the agenda of the thirteenth

session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, a special segment to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries."

10. At the 40th meeting, on 4 December 2002, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (A/C.2/57/L.53), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.26.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.53 (see para. 19, draft resolution I).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.53, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.26 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.27 and A/C.2/57/L. 85

13. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development" (A/C.2/57/L.27), and revised the title to read "*Human Development Report*". The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/201 of 21 December 2001 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 49/123 of 19 December 1994 on the United Nations Development Programme and the *Human Development Report*,

"*Reaffirming* decisions 94/15 of 10 June 1994 and 95/24 of 16 June 1995 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on the *Human Development Report*,

"*Recognizing* that the United Nations Development Programme funds, publishes, launches, promotes and disseminates internationally the *Human Development Report*,

"*Acknowledging* that the *Human Development Report* is an important tool for raising awareness about human development around the world,

"1. *Recognizes* that the *Human Development Report* does not reflect the views of the United Nations nor its Members, and reaffirms that it should be the result of an independent intellectual exercise and that the policies governing the operational activities for development of the United Nations system will continue to be set by Member States;

"2. *Welcomes* decision 2002/18 of 27 September 2002 taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on programming arrangements for the period 2004-2007, through which a fixed annual amount of regular resources was allocated to finance the Human Development Report Office, and stresses that

such resources should ensure the quality and independent nature of the *Human Development Report* process;

"3. *Reaffirms* decision 94/15 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund by which the Board welcomed the decision of the Administrator to improve the process of consultation with Member States and other relevant international bodies to refine the methodologies used in the report with a view to improving its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence;

"4. *Reaffirms also* that the preparation of the *Human Development Report* should be undertaken in a neutral and transparent manner and in full and effective consultation with Member States while respecting the editorial and intellectual independence of the report as well as the impartial nature of sources used in its preparation;

"5. *Calls upon* the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund to take appropriate measures to make operational the above paragraphs and include in its annual work plan an agenda item related to the Human Development Report Office with a view to strengthening consultations with Member States regarding the *Human Development Report* and to ensure the full implementation of the present resolution;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session."

14. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Bruno van der Pluijm (Belgium), introduced a draft resolution entitled "*Human Development Report*" (A/C.2/57/L.85), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.27, and orally corrected operative paragraph 6 by adding the words "on its substantive session of 2003" after the words "the report of the Economic and Social Council".

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.85, as orally corrected (see para. 19, draft resolution II).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.85, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.27 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

17. Following the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Denmark, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

18. At the 44th meeting, on 4 December, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents relating to the item (see para. 20, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

19. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The General Assembly,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation and, in this context, reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-sixth annual meeting, held in New York on 19 September 2002,[2] in which the increased importance and relevance of South-South cooperation were re-emphasized,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation;[3]

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that developing countries have succeeded in setting elaborate action plans for South-South cooperation, and urges developing countries and their partners to intensify South-South and triangular initiatives contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[4]

3. *Encourages* developing countries to strengthen their national coordination mechanisms in order to improve the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this connection also encourages other bilateral and multilateral development partners to do the same, as appropriate;

4. *Reiterates* the urgent need to help strengthen institutions and centres of excellence in the South, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to making more effective use of such entities towards improved South-South knowledge-sharing, networking, capacity-building, information exchange, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of common concern;

5. *Recommends* that the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries should review all aspects of South-South cooperation relevant to development;

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[2] A/57/444, annex.

[3] A/57/155.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme, and in consultation with Member States and relevant organizations and agencies, to carry out a study, within existing resources, with a view to promoting public awareness of the importance and contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation with respect to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and, in this context, to make concrete proposals to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation and to raise such public awareness, inter alia, on the value added and implications of the proposed international decade on South-South cooperation and the United Nations day for South-South cooperation, and to submit the findings and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

7. *Reiterates* the emphasis placed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[5] on the need for multilateral and bilateral financial and development institutions to intensify efforts, inter alia, to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation as delivery tools for assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;[6]

8. *Takes note* of decision 2002/18 of 27 September 2002, taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund,[7] in which the Board decided to allocate a fixed annual amount of 3.5 million dollars to the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;

9. *Calls upon* all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes, and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation;

10. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation and, in this context, invites all countries, in particular developed countries, to contribute in support of such cooperation through, inter alia, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, bearing in mind the need for these Funds to continue to use such resources in an effective manner, and decides to include the latter in the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as long as it exists;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries a special segment to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.[8]

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[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., para. 43.

[7] See DP/2003/2.

[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Draft resolution II
Human Development Report

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/201 of 21 December 2001 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolution 49/123 of 19 December 1994 on the United Nations Development Programme and the *Human Development Report*,

Reaffirming decisions 94/15[9] of 10 June 1994 and 95/24[10] of 16 June 1995 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on the *Human Development Report*,

Recognizing that the United Nations Development Programme funds, publishes, launches and promotes the *Human Development Report* and disseminates it internationally,

Acknowledging that the *Human Development Report* is an important tool for raising awareness about human development around the world,

Recalling that the *Human Development Report* is the result of an independent intellectual exercise and that the policies governing the operational activities for development of the United Nations system will continue to be set by Member States,

1. *Affirms* that the *Human Development Report* is a separate and distinct exercise which is not an official document of the United Nations, and that the policies governing the operational activities for development of the United Nations system will continue to be set by Member States;

2. *Welcomes* decision 2002/18 of 27 September 2002 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on programming arrangements for the period 2004-2007, through which a fixed annual amount of regular resources was allocated to finance the Human Development Report Office;

3. *Reaffirms* Executive Board decision 94/15,[9] by which it welcomed the decision of the Administrator to improve the process of consultation with Member States and other relevant international bodies to refine the methodologies used in the *Human Development Report* with a view to improving its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the preparation of the *Human Development Report* should be undertaken in a neutral and transparent manner and in full and effective consultation with Member States and with due regard to the impartial nature and use of sources;

5. *Invites* the Executive Board to include in its annual work plan as from 2003 a separate agenda item on the report to improve the consultation process with Member States regarding the *Human Development Report* with a view to improving its quality and accuracy without compromising its editorial independence and to ensure the full implementation of the present resolution;

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[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 15* (E/1994/35/Rev.1).

[10] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 14* (E/1995/34).

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that a report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the present resolution is included in the relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council on its substantive session of 2003.

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20. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on pledging mechanisms to fund operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[11]

(b) Decides to further review, at its fifty-ninth session, in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, the pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

Draft decision II
Documents relating to operational activities for development

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents relating to operational activities for development:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;[12]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation.[13]

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[11] A/57/332.
[12] A/57/125.
[13] A/57/155.